

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re : George Hradil Atty Docket : 29691-05 (LE)  
Patent No.: 6,193,858 Issued: February 27, 2001  
Serial No.: 09/216,859 Filing Date: December 21, 1998  
Confirmation No.: 9057

Title: Spouted Bed Apparatus For Contacting Objects with A Fluid

Attn: Maintenance Fee Division  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

08/27/2012 MBANGURA 00000014 000719 6193858  
01 FC:1599 2365.00 DA

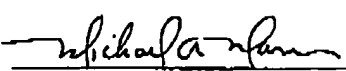
ASSERTION

All 3 maintenance fees for the above-referenced patent were filed in the small entity amount with no deceptive intent. It has now been discovered that, upon information and belief, the patent owner was not entitled to small entity status at the time that all 3 maintenance fees were paid. The patent owner therefore respectfully requests that the US Patent and Trademark Office change the status from small entity to large entity.

In the above identified application, the Director is hereby authorized to charge our Deposit Account Number 080719 in the amount of \$4,710.00. This amount is the sum of all three maintenance fees at the current large entity rates (\$8,710.00) minus what was previously paid for these 3 maintenance fees (\$4,000.00).

The Director is hereby also authorized to charge any additional fee(s) required and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account Number 080719.

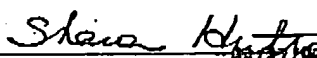
Date: 8/24/2012

 (Reg. No. 32825) for  
TOWNSEND M. BELSER, JR. (Reg. No. 22,956)  
Nexsen Pruet, LLC  
Post Office Drawer 2426  
Columbia, SC 29202-2426  
803-771-8900 Extension 3020

08/27/2012 MBANGURA 00000013 000719 6193858  
01 FC:1599 1670.00 DA

Certificate of Transmission Via Facsimile- I hereby certify that this document is being filed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office via facsimile 571-273-6500 addressed to Attention: Maintenance Fee Division, on

8/24/2012

  
Sharon Hutto

08/27/2012 MBANGURA 00000012 000719 6193858  
01 FC:1599 675.00 DA

NPCOL1:2999997.1-OPDOC-(TMB) 029691-00005